

## Wheeling and Walking Across the State with MoDOT -- District Spotlights --

**Northwest Region** - *Andrew, Atchison, Buchanan, Caldwell, Clinton, Daviess, Dekalb, Gentry, Harrison, Holt, Nodaway and Worth counties*

There are a number of bicycle/pedestrian projects in St. Joseph. In addition to roadway widening and resurfacing, sidewalks have been constructed along Route 6 (Frederick Boulevard) from east of I-29 to Route AC (Riverside Road). Construction started in Spring 2003 on an adjoining section of Route 6 to extend sidewalks from east of I-29, across the bridge over I-29, and west to Woodbine Road, near East Hills Mall. A third project is in the design phase. It will add sidewalks at the intersection of Belt Highway (Route 169) and Route 6, also near East Hills Mall. Additionally, the Chamber of Commerce will add landscaping at the intersection. These sidewalks will connect to a City project just to the west, at 36<sup>th</sup> Street and Route 6. Construction has been completed on the Faraon Street bridge replacement over I-29. The new bridge is wider and has both a sidewalk and a bike trail, which matches the City of St. Joseph's Faraon Street improvement from Route 169 (Belt Highway) to Route AC (Riverside Road). These improvements will accommodate pedestrian transportation to Heartland Hospital at Faraon and to Missouri Western College on the south side of Faraon.

The City of St. Joseph in Buchanan County has completed seven phases of its bicycle and pedestrian trail located mainly along the city's parkway system. The majority of the trail runs north and south, from Krug Park to Southwest Parkway and 22nd Street, as well as from Southwest Parkway and Mansfield Road to Hyde Park. The most recently constructed sections are along an east/west corridor, south of the Municipal Golf Course. Future phases currently being designed will extend the east/west leg to Riverside Road. The city has also completed design plans for a bicycle and pedestrian trail along the Missouri River, from near the St. Jo Frontier Casino to Riverfront Park.

Grant City in Worth County has a bicycle/pedestrian trail project in the design phase. The trail starts at the City Park and runs south to Route 46.

The City of Maryville in Nodaway County has a bicycle pedestrian trail project in the design phase. The trail will extend from Country Club Drive to Walnut Street in the vicinity of Northwest Missouri State University.

**North Central Region** - *Adair, Carroll, Chariton, Grundy, Howard, Linn, Livingston, Macon, Mercer, Putnam, Randolph, Saline, Schuyler and Sullivan counties*

A high-tech, innovative lighting system at the intersection of Illinois and Cottage Grove in Kirksville that alerts drivers when pedestrians are preparing to enter the crosswalk has been installed. Sensors detect pedestrians as they approach the crosswalk and activate amber lights on the roadway that let drivers know someone is about to cross. The Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights can be seen from a distance of 1,500 feet and are clearly visible both at day and night.

Approximately 6,000 pedestrians are killed per year in traffic accidents. In urban areas, pedestrians account for nearly 50 percent of traffic fatalities. These tragedies are 1,100 times more probable at night. Studies have shown that systems like the LED make drivers about 20 percent more likely to yield to pedestrians during the day and 50 percent more likely at night. Pedestrians are also made more alert by the crosswalk lighting systems. This lighting system is part of a hike-and-bike trail being constructed.

Kirksville was awarded federal transportation enhancement funding by the department to pay for a significant portion of the trail project.

**Northeast Region** – *Audrain, Clark, Knox, Lewis, Lincoln, Marion, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike, Ralls, Scotland, Shelby and Warren counties*

Within Hannibal's city limits, numerous bicycle and pedestrian projects are currently under design. Through the authorization of federal enhancement funds, Hannibal plans to construct several miles of shared-use paths, as well as a riverfront trailhead and a shared-use bridge across Bear Creek. Enhancement funds were also authorized for pedestrian facility improvements along Third Street in Hannibal and along Route 24 in Madison. A combination of Enhancement Funds and Off-System Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program Funds were used for a bridge replacement in Paris, MO, that included a bicycle and pedestrian lane.

Projects completed in the past have included full-depth shoulder construction along Route 79 in Pike County to provide for bicyclists and the signing and marking of a bike path across the new Mississippi River bridge at Hannibal. Both of these projects have helped to facilitate the development of the Mississippi River Trail that will eventually connect ten states.

**Kansas City Region** – *Cass, Clay, Henry, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Platte and Ray counties*

Last summer, the district completed a bicycle project on the Heart of America Bridge/Route 9 in downtown Kansas City. As a part of this project, MoDOT installed bike friendly grates and Share the Road signs. MoDOT also restriped the southbound structure of this major river crossing to provide a wider shoulder for bicyclists.

Later this year, MoDOT will be working with the City of Blue Springs to improve bicycle access on Highway 40 and Highway 7 through the city. This project will provide for bike friendly grates, signs and striping improvements. This is a city-led project and is funded through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program.

As a part of the Riverfront Heritage Trail, MoDOT is working with the City of Kansas City to provide improved bicycle and pedestrian access across three overpass bridges in downtown Kansas City. MoDOT has secured funding to improve the grates, sidewalks and railings on these bridges.

MoDOT is also working closely with the Platte County Parks and Recreation Commission to provide a parallel trail to Highway 45 from approximately I29 to Highway 9 in the northland. Bicyclists are already accommodated on the shoulder of Highway 45, but because this road connects schools and churches to many subdivisions in the area, Platte County is interested in providing another transportation option for its citizens. Construction should begin in the fall of 2003.

**Central Missouri Region** – *Benton, Boone, Callaway, Camden, Cole, Cooper, Gasconade, Maries, Miller, Moniteau, Morgan, Osage and Pettis counties*

The mid-Missouri area has several ongoing and completed projects utilizing Federal Enhancement Funds to create a transportation network for bicyclist and pedestrians.

The City of Jefferson is constructing a greenway system that allows bicyclist and pedestrians a transportation alternative within the city. The city has also utilized Enhancement Funds for new community sidewalks. A shoulder restriping project to better accommodate bicyclists across the north-

bound Missouri River bridge at Jefferson City included grate replacements and the installation of Share the Road signs.

The City of Columbia has created a network called the Bear Creek Trail for bicyclist and pedestrian use through the city. Columbia has also constructed three pedestrian bridges in the past year over I70, Business Loop 70 and Route 163.

The City of Fulton is currently constructing the Stinson Creek Trail, a paved multi-use path, within the city limits that will provide a safe means of transportation for a variety of users.

These projects provide safe transportation facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians within the community. Once completed, they will form an integral transportation system for residents to travel to and from work, school, recreation areas, shops and restaurants.

### **St. Louis Region** – Franklin, Jefferson, St. Charles and St. Louis counties

The St. Louis district has been providing facilities and safety awareness for bicyclists and pedestrian for many years. Many projects are part of a system that will eventually form a transportation network for bicyclists. Facilities include three major projects.

The Route 370 bridge over the Missouri River (Discovery Bridge) has ramps to and from the roadway and a bike lane on the bridge's shoulders. This provides access from St. Louis County to St. Charles County and connects to the Katy Trail. The Route 67 bridge over the Mississippi River to Alton (Clark Bridge) has bike lanes. Trailnet created the West Alton Trail that runs from the Clark Bridge to West Alton and will eventually be part of a connection to the future extension of the Katy Trail to Machens in northeastern St. Charles County. There are bike route signs on the bridge. The district established and signed the Mississippi River Trail from southern limits of Jefferson County through the district to the northern limits of St. Charles.

In St. Louis County, more than 1,000 grate inlets were retrofitted with curved vane bicycle-friendly grates. Share the Road signs were installed; intersections were striped with bike slots; and roads were re-striped with a dashed line to provide wide curb lanes for motorists and bicyclists to share. A bike lane was created on Route 231 in southern St. Louis County from the Meramec River to Christopher Road. On Route 100 (Manchester Road) at Old Ballwin Road in Ballwin, a pedestrian crossing with a refuge in the center of a two-way, left-turn lane was created. In addition, sidewalk connections, curb ramps, crosswalks and pedestrian signals have been located at several spots in Ballwin.

The district partnered with Trailnet on a three-year education and awareness program that will end this year. The education effort included many organizations and schools that provided bicycle education, awareness, promotion and advocacy. The district and Trailnet participated in a session of Greg Freeman's show on KWMU concerning bicycle projects and advocacy issues. This education project also included bus and billboard ads that featured bicycle advocacy messages in addition to a series of radio spots on several stations last spring.

Three of the projects in the South County area on which MoDOT has installed bike striping and/or sidewalks include: Route 366 - from Geyer to Grant Road, Route 231 - from I-255 to Christopher and Route 61/67 - new bridge over the Meramec River north of Arnold.

**Southwest Region** – *Barton, Bates, Berry, Cedar, Dade, Jasper, Lawrence, McDonald, Newton, St. Clair and Vernon counties*

District 7 is improving Range Line Road (Business Route 71) in Joplin, the district's most heavily traveled route. Along with several intersection projects, sidewalks are being added along each side of the route -- between and at intersections -- in an effort to improve pedestrian safety, particularly for motel guests trying to reach restaurants and other businesses.

The section of Range Line from Seventh Street to North Park Mall is completed. The intersection at 32nd Street is scheduled for 2003. In 2004, the district plans to improve the section from the Seventh Street intersection almost to 20th Street. In 2005, the intersection at 20th Street is planned for work, as well as the segment from south of 20th Street to south of 24th Street.

In Nevada, construction is expected to begin soon on a new sidewalk system along Business Highway 71 and will connect an area of apartment complexes and a trailer park to the business district. The project is approximately 0.4 miles in length and the four foot sidewalks will tie into an existing sidewalk, providing a much safer pathway for both pedestrians and bicyclists to travel from the residential area to the amenities of the downtown area. Many of the residents in the area of the project do not own vehicles, so pedestrians will greatly benefit from the new access, as numerous people have expressed to the City in previous years. In addition to the proposed sidewalk, it is the city's intent to beautify the pathway by planting trees, installing benches and placing trash receptacles along the route.

Replacement of a bridge over Turkey Creek in Jasper County will take place soon, connecting the 3.75 mile Frisco Greenway Trail from Joplin to Webb City. This trail was developed in cooperation with the not-for-profit Joplin Trails Coalition. In March 2001, vandals burned the wooden bridge. In an effort to reduce such vulnerability, Jasper County plans to use a concrete deck with a mostly steel structure. Drainage work and other anti-erosion measures will be taken to protect the trail. Surfacing of the trail with crushed limestone in the Webb City portion, swing-arm style barricades designed to deter motor vehicles and feeder paths are planned to make the trail more appealing to pedestrians. Safety is a key element of this project since it is utilized by many people in the Joplin Metropolitan Area and is considered by Jasper County to be the safest route for pedestrians and bicyclists between Joplin and Webb City.

The construction of a two-phase multi-use project in Butler for bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists along a mile of Fort Scott Street is finished. The improvements included replacing existing sidewalks and adding them where they were non-existent to create a continuous, smooth pathway along the corridor for pedestrians. Brick pavers and landscaping define intersections. Fort Scott Street is a popular route in Butler for both tourists and residents alike. Children travel this route both by bicycle and on foot to get to school. Local residents and visitors use Fort Scott Street to reach the Historic Downtown Square. Tourists travel along the route to visit the Russell Stover Candy Plant. With these improvements, Fort Scott Street has become a designated gateway that is much more visually appealing and safe.

**Springfield Region** – *Christian, Dallas, Douglas, Greene, Hickory, Laclede, Ozark, Polk, Stone, Taney, Webster and Wright counties*

The City of Springfield's Vision 20/20 Plan for Parks, Greenways and Open Space has identified 130 miles of potential greenway trails interconnecting throughout the community. MoDOT has administered some of the funding through the Transportation Enhancement Program that has helped build several trail miles.

The Frisco Highline Trail is a Rails-to-Trails project currently extending 12-miles from Willard to Walnut Grove. The trail will eventually lead all the way to Bolivar, providing a 30-mile trail for bicyclists and pedestrians. Construction is underway on a portion of this trail that extends from Springfield and connects to the existing trail in Willard. Since the trail has opened, Willard's downtown area reports a surge in redevelopment of small business on the main street directly across from the trailhead.

The South Creek/Wilson's Creek Greenway is currently a five-mile trail and will eventually span 10-miles connecting Meador Park to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. It currently links Nathaniel Greene Park, the Japanese Gardens, Close Memorial Park and Horton Smith Golf Course along with Carver Middle School and a variety of neighborhoods along its route. A pedestrian and bicycling overpass was also funded through MoDOT enhancement funds and allows trail users to safely cross Kansas Expressway.

The Galloway Trail is a six-mile trail connecting Pershing Middle School on Seminole Street to Sequiota Park and onto the Springfield Conservation Nature Center. The most recently completed (2002) section connecting Pershing Middle School to the trail provides children living in adjacent neighborhoods a safer route to school.

Jordan Valley Park is part of a redevelopment of downtown Springfield that includes an ice-skating arena, expo center, parking garage, minor league baseball stadium and a greenway trail system. MoDOT has administered Enhancement, Economic Development and Transportation Community System Preservation funding for sidewalks, landscaping, period lighting and bike lockers. The baseball stadium, expo center and parking garage are currently under construction with completion scheduled for this fall and early next spring.

MoDOT has also partnered with Greene County in utilizing Surface Transportation Program-Urban funds to provide sidewalks in neighborhoods around Cherokee Middle School, Carver Middle School and Jeffries Elementary School. Springfield Public School students are not provided busing if they live within 1.5-miles of school they attend. Sidewalks have been constructed in some neighborhoods around these schools to help provide a safer route for students to travel. The most recent sidewalk project was completed in early June 2003 in the Cherokee Estates neighborhood.

**South Central Region** – *Carter, Crawford, Dent, Howell, Iron, Oregon, Phelps, Pulaski, Reynolds, Ripley, Shannon, Texas and Washington counties*

Within the city limits of Arcadia, between the Taum Sauk Trail and Route 21 near Route M, a 1.5-mile pedestrian and bicycle pathway was built. This pathway provides a safer non-vehicle access from Arcadia Valley School to the City of Arcadia, the Grace Preschool and the Signer Senior Center. The pathway also connects the Taum Sauk and Ozark trails to a primitive encampment for scouts by the way of Route M and Park Drive.

In 1995, a new bridge was built across the Current River in Carter County. When the old Current River bridge and walkway was torn down in 1996, pedestrians walked along Route 60 to cross the river from North Van Buren to South Van Buren. In 2000, a walkway was constructed alongside the new Current River bridge to provide for safe passage of local pedestrians and tourists.

The City of Rolla has developed an aggressive pedestrian and bicycle plan to meet the needs of the community. Rolla has already built a pedestrian and bicycle pathway that connects several schools, parks and commercial and residential areas such as Buehler Park, UMR Golf Course, 11<sup>th</sup> Street Park, Rolla Senior High School and Junior High School, Ben Juan Park, Murry Park, Rolla Middle School, Rolla

Technical Institute, Rolla Technical Center, Town and Country Park, Maggi Park, Ponzer Park, Wedgewood Park, Newcastle Park and the central business district.

There are other pedestrian and bicycle pathways that will be constructed within the next three years throughout the region. The City of St. James has been working on the development of an eight-mile hard surface, shared-use path known as the St. James-Meramec Iron Works Trail. The pathway will begin at the St. James Community Park, will pass the Missouri Veteran's Home, the Boys and Girls Town of Missouri and stop at the Meramec Spring Park.

The City of St. Robert is developing a pathway that will parallel the I-44 Spur from Fort Leonard Wood and connect to the existing two pathways at Business Route I-44.

During the summer of 2003, the City of Thayer plans to construct a sidewalk adjacent to Route 142 from the Thayer High School to the downtown sidewalk system. The pathway will include a crosswalk on Route 142 to connect it with a neighborhood on the south side of Route 142 and a pedestrian crosswalk with lights and activation buttons at the intersection of Route 63.

**Southeast Region** – *Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Dunklin, Madison, New Madrid, St. Francois, St. Genevieve, Mississippi, Pemiscot, Perry, Scott, Stoddard and Wayne counties*

The City of Marble Hill constructed a 100-foot, single-span, pre-engineered pedestrian bridge with abutments on Route 34 (west of Route 51) over Crooked Creek to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety.

Southeast Missouri State University completed Phase I of the Parker Park and Ride Facility to improve connectivity to the transit system, which included using some Transportation Enhancement Funds.

Cape Girardeau has completed several phases of a recreational trail from Minnesota Avenue to Brink Street and Independence to Lexington. The 16,232.5-feet of multi-use path includes a concrete or asphalt surface, slope protection, storm-water drainage, four footbridges and a retaining wall.

In Sam A Baker State Park in Wayne County, a 1.65-mile, 10-foot-wide paved multi-use path was constructed to link two campgrounds with the visitor center, the park store and the dining lodge. The path is adjacent to Route 143, which runs through the park's main public-use area. The purpose is to provide for visitor safety and access to park facilities.